(7) Retrenchment in the expenditure on English Schools.

There was discontent among the teachers on account of unsatisfactory grade-promotions. The introduction of time-scale of pay would remove the grievances.

Then, in regard to the salary of teachers in grant-in-aid schools, the amount of the grant allowed by the Government was all the pay they received. He suggested the following measures for ameliorating their condition :—

(1) The salaries of teachers of aided schools should be raised to three-fourths of the salary of teachers in departmental schools.

(2) The service of the teachers in aided schools should be counted as pensionable when they were entertained in any department under the Government.

(3) When vacancies arose in the departmental schools, recruitment should be made from the ranks of the aided school teachers.

Lastly, he requested that the pay of the schoolmasters in departmental schools should be raised to at least Rs. 18.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, the subject of the improvement of the pay and prospects of Vernacular School teachers is a very important and serious one ; and as you are aware, the Government have been viewing the matter sympathetically for some time past. The magnitude of the question, however, makes it difficult of achievement in a moment. You know that the number of Vernacular School teachers is between 6,000 and 7,000. And to improve their pay by even a rupee a month will cost a lakh of rupees more and that is not commensurate with what has been thought to be necessary for them. To accept your suggestion to raise the minimum pay to Rs. 18 will cost the Government nearly 3·5 lakhs of rupees a year.

2. You also want the pay of the grant-in-aid teachers to be increased. In respect of that, you have lost sight of one very important fact. The Rs. 7½ given by the Government is only a grant-in-aid. It is not intended to be the sum total of the pay of the teachers. If the Managers of private schools will realise their responsibilities—I may go further and say the stern duty that lies upon them—they should add as much as the Government give and not make the Government grant-in-aid the sole remuneration of poor people who are teachers under them.

3. As I said, the Government are in entire sympathy with the subject-matter of your representation, that is, the improvement of the pay and prospects of Vernacular School teachers. It is purely a matter of ways and means; the Government have to find three or four lakhs of rupees and as you will see from my opening address, the question has to be considered whether other interests besides the Government should not be called upon to bear their share by means of a cess or by some other means. And if the constituency that you represent and others are anxious that the pay of the teachers should be improved, I have no doubt that all of you will bear cheerfully, if and when you are asked, a portion of the cost. With these general remarks, I have only to say that what you have represented will be noted.

81. Rebuilding the English Girls' School, Attingal.

THE REV. MR. K. JOSHUA (*Member, Municipal Council, Attingal*) brought to the notice of the Government the difficulties the Attingal Municipality was experiencing in conducting an English Girls' School at Attingal. The school contained two classes, the Preparatory class and Form I, and the Municipality was proposing to open Form II also the following school year. But as ill-luck would have it, the school building was burnt down and it was found difficult to raise the necessary funds to reconstruct the building. He therefore requested the Government to help the Municipality with half the amount required for reconstructing the building and said that the Municipality would then find the balance by raising a loan.

He also requested that the Municipality be helped with a Government grant for conducting the school.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joshua, the Attingal Municipality were told by the Government that, if they wanted to rebuild their school, they could have a loan from the Government on the security of their Municipal revenues. Of course, that will bear interest. But the Municipality have not yet thought fit to reply and therefore I am not able to give you a definite reply at present.

82. Vernacular Schools at Punalur.

MR. C. PERCY BHANU (*Member, Pattanapuram taluk*) said that some taluks were fortunate in getting a more than usual share of encouragement at the hands of the Government in the matter of education, but Pattanapuram taluk, as a whole, could not boast of a Government Vernacular Middle School. However, he said there was a building intended to hold classes up to the 7th, but it was dilapidated and unsuitable. The school was held in an old building situated in a low corner of the Taluk Cutcherry premises, in which, besides the Taluk Cutcherry, there were other offices also. This was very inconvenient and a building for housing the school should be constructed.

Considerable difficulty was experienced by the people for want of a separate school for girls. Girls were now being admitted in the boys' school, but this was found to be very inconvenient, and after a period, the girls ceased to attend the school. A separate girls' school was therefore an urgent necessity.

The difficulties of grant-in-aid schools were two in number. In the first place, Government allowed two schools to be conducted in the same locality in very close proximity. The consequence was that there were not enough pupils for either of the schools and, in some cases, it gave rise to unhealthy rivalry between the two schools. In the second place, the grants allowed to the private schools were paid only from the year from which they were sanctioned. This rule caused hardship to the managements which had to forego considerable sums of money because of the delay in issuing the necessary orders. Better arrangements should be made for this purpose.

The English Middle School built by the people of the locality should be raised into a High School.

The pay of the teachers in Pattanapuram taluk should be raised, as a special case, the increase taking the shape of hill allowance.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Percy Bhanu, the Director of Public Instruction will be asked to report upon the various requests that you have made. And some day when I go to Punalur, I shall be happy to look into those matters.

83. Cattle pounds.

MR. R. J. MACMULLIN (*Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association*) pointed out the dearth of cattle pounds in the locality, even though provision had recently been made for a pound at Vandiperiyar. The distances between this and the other pounds at Kumili and Arudai were so great as to restrict their usefulness. Further, since these pounds were all on the main road, the difficulty of taking the cattle from places away from the main road was great. Consequently, the owners of cattle had become emboldened to let loose their cattle. Besides being a nuisance to neighbouring land-owners, the stray cattle impeded motor traffic on the roads on the excellent condition of which he congratulated the Government.

He suggested, in conclusion, that, as in Ceylon, where the nuisance was as great, more pounds should be provided all round the locality, where they would be accessible to the people. It would be to the benefit of the whole community that owners of cattle were taught their responsibility in tending their animals.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Macmullin, on the representation of the Mundakayam Planters' Association at the twenty-first session of the Assembly, the Government decided to establish two cattle pounds in the locality you refer to. But they gave

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